

SITUATION REPORT NO. 24
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 18, 1997 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: In Grand Forks, a youth who had fallen in the Red River was revived after a rescuer administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation. To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: Approximately 1,000 homes in Grand Forks had been evacuated by early April 18 after flood waters from the Red River of the North had toppled private dikes and were flowing over a public dike in the Riverside Park area. Emergency management officials report that dikes in the Lincoln Drive and Riverside Park areas are becoming unstable. Residents living in Riverside Park and Lincoln Park areas, including the 1300 to 1700 block of Belmont, west of Cottonwood Street, are being evacuated. Flood waters have spread out and are entering the city from its south side. The city first developed trouble with its diking system on April 17 when a Lincoln Park dike developed a leak. Residents in the area were evacuated as a precautionary measure.

The National Weather Service reported the level of the Red River at Grand Forks was at 51.55 feet early April 18, and has gained more than two feet during the past 24 hours. A revised forecast now calls for the river to crest at 53 feet late April 18, nearly four feet over original predictions. Once the crest is reached, water levels are expected to remain high for the next five to seven days.

The city of Fargo was also coping with problems created by levee failures. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported that a sandbag levee in the Oak Grove area in northeast Fargo failed, affecting 23 homes and the Oak Grove School. Contractors were constructing a clay dike to contain the water. The USACE is developing plans for backup security diking. The river has remained stable since midnight April 18 at 39.5 feet. The Red River level is expected to remain high in the Fargo area for the next five to eight days. The Weather Service reports minor fluctuations of 0.1 to 0.3 feet are possible.

State agricultural officials report to date approximately 90,000 cattle perished during the
recent blizzard

compared to 20,000-plus that had died during January-February blizzards. The recent storm alone caused approximately \$21.5 million in farm building damages. To date, 1,735,150 acres of farmland are flooded.

The status of North Dakota rivers and tributaries above flood stage are in the following order: station location, flood stage, today's 8:00 a.m. stage, the 24-hour difference, and flood-of-record level:

Red River

Wahpeton : 10 ft., 18.96 ft., -0.02 ft., 19.2 ft.
Hickson: 30 ft., 37.33 ft., -0.20 ft., no record
Fargo: 17 ft., 39.54 ft., +0.22 ft., 37.3 ft.
Halstad, MN: 24 ft., 40.36 ft., +0.54 ft., 39 ft.
East Grand Forks: 28 ft., 51.55 ft., +2.01 ft., 48.8 ft.
Oslo, MN: 28 ft., not available, 38.6 ft.
Drayton: 32 ft., 40.30 ft., +1.46 ft., 43.7 ft.
Pembina: 42 ft., 42.23 ft., not available, 53.8 ft.

Wild Rice

Abercrombie: 10 ft., 24.46 ft., +0.43 ft., 24.6 ft.

Maple River

Enderlin: 6 ft., 12.36 ft., +0.48 ft., 15.4 ft.

Goose River

Hillsboro: 7 ft., 12.45 ft., +0.59 ft., 16.8 ft.

Park River

Grafton: 12 ft., 13.82 ft., +1.72 ft., 16.5 ft.

Sheyenne River

Cooperstown: 12 ft., 17.10 ft., +0.08 ft., 18.69 ft.
Lisbon: 11 ft., 16.10 ft., +0.67 ft., 19 ft.
Kindred: 16 ft., 19.62 ft., +0.68 ft., 21.7 ft.
Valley City: 13 ft., 18.16 ft., +1.18 ft., 18.9 ft.

Sheyenne Diversion

Horace: 23 ft., not available, no record
West Fargo: 16.5 ft., 22.74 ft., not available, 21.5 ft.
Harwood: 884 ft., 891.94 ft., +0.01 ft., 890.70 ft.

Souris River

Bantry: 11 ft., 12.77 ft., -0.03 ft., 14.6 ft.
Westhope: 10 ft., 11.8 ft., not available, 19.2 ft.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Sandbag work at Grand Forks has been upgraded to 24 hour operations. Volunteers had filled more than 1.3 million sandbags on April 15. The University of Grand Forks closed early April 16 to support the need for flood-fight volunteers.

Ten Salvation Army relief teams are providing meals and shelters and are distributing paper products and cleaning supplies in the Fargo, Grand Forks and Jamestown areas. A receiving/distribution warehouse has been established in Fargo. The Salvation Army reports that more than 18,000 officers, employees and volunteers from 11 states are involved in efforts to assist flood victims in North Dakota and Minnesota.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer, Maj. Gen. Keith D. Bjerke, State Coordinating Officer, and Lesli A. Rucker, Federal Coordinating Officer, on April 17-18 were visiting local officials and touring flood-stricken areas in Fargo, Grand Forks and Wahpeton.

State and federal officials are developing strategies for the removal of 90,000 cattle killed during the April 5-6 blizzard. Agriculture officials are concerned that when the carcasses thaw, they could pose a health hazard. Officials will first concentrate on removal efforts in southern North Dakota, where temperatures are expected to reach into the 60s this weekend. The Department of Agriculture is consulting with North Dakota's county agents, the N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Soil Conservation Service, Board of Animal Health, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. National Guard and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

In response to continued problems created by flood waters, 450 National Guard members had volunteered on April 17 to assist with "Operation Good Neighbor." National Guard members were responding to 29 requests for assistance, from providing and operating generators to staffing traffic control points at inundated roadways. Since their efforts began, the National Guard members have completed 96 missions to assist flooded communities.

The USACE on April 17 was raising dikes in Grand Forks to 54 feet after revised forecasts called for the Red River to crest higher than originally projected. The USACE also was shoring up a Lincoln Park dike and is continually monitoring the situation.

In preparation for the flood, the city of Grand Forks conducted informational meetings on April 16, outlining evacuation plans for residents. The meetings were conducted by the mayor, emergency manager, city engineer and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) public information officer.

In Fargo, the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) has 20 trucks hauling fill for reinforcement of dikes. Of those trucks, 14 came from other N.D. DOT districts. Eleven additional trucks were enroute from Devils Lake to Grand Forks to assist with dike

reinforcement efforts there.

Disaster recovery teams, who will assist disaster victims throughout North Dakota, will begin visits with six western North Dakota cities. The teams, working out of temporary Disaster Recovery Centers, include representatives of FEMA, the N.D. Department of Human Services and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Team members will provide information about disaster assistance programs available to residents and business owners who suffered property damage or losses because of the disaster. The centers will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The locations and dates are as follows: Beulah, April 25-26 and April 30-May 1, Beulah Civic Center; Bismarck, April 23-24 and April 30-May 1, Burleigh County Emergency Management Center; Carson, April 21-22 and April 28-29, Grant County Courthouse; Dickinson, April 23-34 and April 29, Veterans Room, Stark County Courthouse Basement; Linton, April 25-26 and May 2-3, Emmons County Courthouse; and Mott, April 21-22 and April 28, Legion Hall in the Hettinger County Courthouse basement. An orientation session was held April 16 and computer training was slated for April 18 for the Individual Assistance staff hired to assist flood victims.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol conducted an aerial surveillance flight of the Grand Forks, Oslo and Drayton areas along the Red River for the USACE. An air crew also flew a mission so Grand Forks officials could view flood-damaged areas.

FEMA has requested assistance from the N.D. State Water Commission with flood map interpretations. Two State Water Commission employees working with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will be assigned as needed to the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) in Bismarck.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages can apply for individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director